

Facts of Volunteer Firefighting

- Volunteers comprise 73% of firefighters in the United States
- The majority of fire departments in the United States are volunteer
- The number of Volunteer Firefighters in the United States has declined more than 10% since 1983
- Small and mid-sized communities rely heavily on volunteer firefighters
- Volunteers invest a large amount of time serving their communities
- Communities served by volunteer firefighters depend on them to be their first line of defense for many types of emergencies



Hamilton County Volunteer Fire Departments

Chattanooga-Hamilton County Rescue
Dallas Bay Volunteer Fire Department
Flat Top Volunteer Fire Department
Hamilton County Hazardous Materials Team
Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department
Mowbray Mountain Volunteer Fire Department
Sale Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Sequoyah Volunteer Fire Department
Special Tactics and Rescue Services (S.T.A.R.S.)
Tri-Community Volunteer Fire Department
Volunteer State Water Rescue
Walden's Ridge Emergency Services

Municipal Fire Departments within Hamilton County

Chattanooga Fire Department
Lookout Mountain Department of Public Safety
Red Bank Fire Department
Soddy Daisy Fire Department
Signal Mountain Fire Department

Hamilton County
Emergency Services
Fire Training
317 Oak Street, Suite #302
Chattanooga, TN 37403

Phone: (423) 209-6900

Fax: (423) 209-6901

www.hamiltontn.gov/emergencymanagement



HAMILTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRE TRAINING



OUR MISSION: to provide comprehensive training and educational programs for all public safety personnel in order to create and maintain a competent and professional work force needed to support the fire services in the Chattanooga/Hamilton County area.

Firefighter I class consists of:

- Length of Class: August to May
- 312 hours of classroom and practicals
- Introduction to Fire, Ventilation
- Building Construction, SCBAs, PPEs
- Search and Rescue, HazMat Operations
- Ropes, Ladders, Extinguishers
- Fire Hose, Water Supply, Hose Advancement
- Forcible Entry, WMD Awareness
- Loss and Fire Control
- CPR, Shock Management, SIDs

Firefighter II class consists of:

- Length of Class: August to May
- 312 hours of classroom and practicals
-

Minimum Requirements:

1. Must be 18 yrs of age or 17 yrs if they are currently with a fire department
2. Must have a high school diploma
3. Must have the ability to read and comprehend written material at the 12th grade level
4. Must possess the mental, physical and medical health to adequately perform the duties of a firefighter
5. Must be able to obtain a valid TN Driver's License
6. No criminal record

Other Requirements:

- Must complete the FFI course and pass a state test before they receive their Firefighter certification.
- Must be affiliated with an emergency agency and be a part of a First Responder program.

First Responders within Hamilton County are provided by the Volunteer Fire Departments and several municipal fire departments. The Chattanooga Fire Department responds to 911 calls within the Chattanooga city limits. The cities of Red Bank, Signal Mountain, Lookout Mountain and Soddy Daisy have municipal fire departments and respond to 9-1-1 calls in their districts. 9-1-1 calls outside the city limits relies on the Volunteer Fire Department agencies. First Response is provided under the oversight of Hamilton County E.M.S, while adhering to the State of Tennessee Guidelines.

Each volunteer fire department provides first responder coverage within their response district. Most first responder calls are at a Basic Life Support level, although, Soddy Daisy Fire Department provides full Advance Life Support coverage. Each of the volunteer agencies participates in active Quality Assurance, Mutual Aid meetings, First Responder meetings, annual training and coordinating questions in conjunction with the Medical Director.

First Responder criteria is based on the type of emergency need, the severity of injury, and the response time of the E.M.S. unit assigned to the call. Radio coordination of all assigned units on each response is through several talk groups on the County 800mhz radio system. Units responding on each call are tasked with changing to the assigned talk radio channel for coordination for response and pertinent patient information.

